

U.S. Appl. No. 09/844,354  
Reply to Office Action dated May 18, 2006

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus, comprising:

a hierarchizing means-section for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program;

a first providing means-section for providing at least one of the first information and the second information;~~and~~

a second providing means-section for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

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2. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing ~~means-section~~ provides the first information or the second information by radio or wire communication or by a recording medium, and said second providing ~~means-section~~ provides the layout information by radio or wire communication or by a recording medium.

3. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing ~~means-section~~ provides the first information by radio or wire communication when a broadcasting time of a program is changed.

4. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing ~~means-section~~ provides the first information in a superposed relationship with a vertical blanking period of a television signal.

5. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing ~~means-section~~ provides the first information digitally in a superposed relationship with a television signal.

6. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing ~~means-section~~ and said second providing ~~means-section~~ provide the first information and the second information as well as the layout information digitally by ~~means-of~~ radio or wire communication.

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7. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing ~~means~~ section determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between regular broadcasting and rebroadcasting as the first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

8. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which may change between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting and the second information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed.

9. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing ~~means~~ section hierarchizes the second information further into third information which is small in amount and is referred to by the third information and fourth information which is large in amount and is referred to by the first information or the third information.

10. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first information is information in units of a program to be broadcast and the third information of the second information includes information for identifying a performer who

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constructs the program while the fourth information of the second information includes information regarding details of a performer who performs in the program.

11. (Currently Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information; ~~and~~

providing layout information from which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

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12. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium-product comprising a program, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;~~and~~

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

13. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

a first acquiring means-section for acquiring at least one of first and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

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wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with ~~a~~said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program;

a second acquiring means-section for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

a producing means-section for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

14. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a display means-section for displaying the electronic program guide information.

15. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said producing ~~means-section~~ retrieves information from the first information or the second information in response to the layout information and produces the display information in response to the retrieved information and the layout information.

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16. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said producing ~~means~~section hierarchizes the retrieved information into first intermediate information which relates to contents to be displayed at individual layout positions based on the layout information and into second intermediate information to be referred to by the first intermediate information and designates the first information.

17. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said producing ~~means~~section sorts the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

18. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising an instructing ~~means~~section for instructing sorting of the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

19. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring ~~means~~section acquires at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from a recording medium.

20. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring ~~means~~section fetches at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from data transmitted thereto by radio or wire communication.

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21. (Currently Amended) A display controlling method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with ~~a~~said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium ~~product comprising a program~~, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on



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specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with ~~a~~said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~said program;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

23. (Currently Amended) An information providing system, comprising:

a hierarchizing means-section for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with ~~a~~said program; and

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wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~ cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a said~~ a program;

a first providing means-section for providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

a second providing means-section for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

a first acquiring means-section for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

a second acquiring means-section for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

a producing means-section for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

24. (Currently Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program

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and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~ can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with ~~a~~ said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~ cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with ~~a~~ said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium ~~product comprising a program~~, the program being operable to perform the steps of:  
hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program

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and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which ~~may~~can change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a said program; and

wherein the second information, which ~~may not~~cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen; ~~and~~

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to media on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.